

pertinent part, that a national stage application containing claims to different categories of invention will be considered to satisfy the unity of invention requirement if the claims are drawn to the following combination of categories.

2. A product and a process of use of said product.

Applicants respectfully submit that their claims 1-27 satisfy the definition of the claims which are considered to have unity of invention.

In view of the above remarks, it is thus respectfully requested that the restriction requirement be withdrawn and that all claims be allowed to be prosecuted in the same application. In the event that the requirement is made final, and in order to comply with 37 C.F.R. § .143, Applicants elect, with traverse, Group I (Claims 1-17 and 24-27), holding the remaining Claims 18-23 in abeyance under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.142(b) until final disposition of the elected claims.

II. REQUEST FOR INDICATION OF CONSIDERATION OF INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Applicants respectfully request the indication of consideration of the Information Disclosure Statement filed on December 21, 2000, i.e., by returning to Applicants' undersigned counsel a copy of Form PTO-1449 with the Examiner's initials in the left column.

CONCLUSION

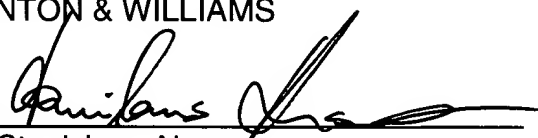
Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance and respectfully request a notice of allowance for all the pending claims. Should the Examiner determine that any further action is necessary to place this application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is kindly requested and encouraged to telephone Applicants' undersigned representative at the number listed below.

It is believed that no fees are due in connection with this response. However, if any fees are determined to be due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge these fees to the undersigned's Deposit Account No. 50-0206.

Respectfully submitted,

HUNTON & WILLIAMS

Dated: January 7, 2002

By: 
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